

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a method for in vitro detection of malignant potential of dysplasia by aberrant methylation of *p16* CpG islands, comprising extraction of genomic DNA from a tissue or body fluid sample, analysis of methylation status of *p16* CpG islands in the extracted DNA, and evaluation of malignant potential of the tested tissue. The present invention also provides DNA compositions having artificial sequences of *p16* CpG islands with or without methylation.